

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An apparatus ~~Apparatus for the distribution of~~  
~~distributing~~ a random stream of items ~~[[ (10) ]]~~ into several lanes ~~(11 to 16)~~ in which are  
adapted to transport the items ~~(10)~~ ~~are transported~~ individually one after the other, the  
apparatus comprising:

a transport device ~~(20)~~ ~~for the items (10)~~ which has at least one ~~or more~~ driven  
conveyor belt~~[[s]], [(22)]~~ and a pair of side rails ~~[[ (24) ]]~~, displaced from one another and  
bordering the conveyor belt, the transport device transporting the stream of items in a  
direction of transport;

a lane divider ~~(30)~~ ~~which has several~~ including at least one movable divider~~[[s (34)]]~~  
~~which divides~~ adapted to divide the stream of transported items ~~[[ (10) ]]~~; and

a device ~~[[ (40) ]]~~ for driving the lane divider ~~(30)~~, ~~by which the dividers (34) being~~  
~~movable transversely to the direction of transport, characterized in that the lane divider (30)~~  
~~comprises a frame (32), to which the dividers (34) are fixed, and that the dividers (34) carry~~  
~~out a~~ such that the at least one movable divider moves back and forth ~~movement~~  
simultaneously in the direction of transport and transversely to it.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 1,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the at least one divider is one of several movable dividers which  
includes a middle divider ~~(34)~~ ~~projects~~ projecting against the direction of transport and ~~[[the]]~~  
side dividers ~~(34)~~ ~~are set back staggered~~ with respect to the middle divider.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 1 ~~one of~~  
~~claims 1 to 2, characterized in that wherein~~ the distance between the side rails (26, 36) is  
increased ~~stepwise~~ incrementally in the direction of transport, the increase commencing at a  
point ~~which~~ in front of a front edge of a frontmost divider, wherein a distance from the edge  
to the point corresponds approximately to a dimension ~~the diameter of an~~ one of the item (10)  
~~items in front of the tip of the frontmost divider (34).~~

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 3,  
~~characterized in that the steps (28, 29, 38)~~ wherein the incremental increases are rounded in a  
grooved manner.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~one of~~  
~~claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the rail~~ wherein at least one of the side rails is divided and  
[[the]] a part [[(36)]] of the rail ~~in the area of the lane divider (30) can~~ is adapted to be moved  
outwards.

<sup>7</sup>  
Claim ~~6~~ (New): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the front edge is formed  
in the shape of a tip.

<sup>6</sup>  
Claim ~~7~~ (New): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the dimension is a  
diameter of a cylindrical item.

<sup>9</sup>  
Claim ~~8~~ (New): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the lane divider includes a frame,  
and at least one movable divider is fixed to the frame.